All these PSUs are sick, have been referred to BIFR, and in general are facing serious resource srunch.

Efforts are being made by PSUs to sort out the issue with the BSEB and the State Government authorities.

Trade with France

†*209. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether France has offered to double its trade with India and to be included in the category of first five countries which are investing in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received from the French side. However, in the 9th Session of Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi during November 23-24, 1998, both sides had agreed that the current levels of trade and investment between the two countries were not commensurate with their potentials and both sides had agreed on the need for concerted efforts through the Joint Committee in order to help realise the full potential of Indo-French trade and economic relations.

Grant-in-aid for Social Welfare Organisations

*210. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTIC AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes of Grant-in-aid available for various categories of social organisations and physically handicapped welfare organisations, alongwith details thereof;

(b) what is the total allocation for these schemes and guidelines thereof;

(c) what is the normal time taken for release of Grant-in-aid under these schemes; and

(d) how many such schemes are pending from Tamil Nadu for clearance?

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† Original of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The following 14 schemes of grant in aid are available in the Ministry for various categories of social organisations and physically handicapped welfare organisations:—

S.No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities
2.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase of AIDs/Appliances
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse
4.	Grant in aid Programme for Assistance in the Field of Social Defence
5.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons
6.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisation/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons
7.	Integrated Programme for Street Children
8.	Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organisation working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes
9.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisation working for the Other Backward Classes
10.	Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes
11.	Pre-Examination Coaching for Weaker Section based on Economic Criteria
12.	Shelter for Animals
13.	Ambulance Services for Animal Distress
14.	Birth Control to Immunization of Street Dog

(b) and (c) The total allocation for these schemes is Rs. 182.19 crores for the current financial year 1999-2000. The assistance for the financial year is released in two instalments to the organisation and the second instalment is released on receipt of inspection report and recommendation of appropriate authorities. The recommendation, while assessing the working of the organisation also reports on the utilisation of funds and the progress made. The time taken, depends upon the time within which the documents/inspection report etc. are received. The schemes of the Ministry are generally for the voluntary organisations of the entire country. These schemes are publicised periodically so that more number of voluntary organisations all over the country can be covered under the various schemes of the Ministry.

(d) All the above schemes have been approved and are applicable to all States/UTs including Tamil Nadu.